

CHALLENGES FOR THE UPLANDS



Dr Lois Mansfield
Principal Lecturer
University of Cumbria, Ambleside

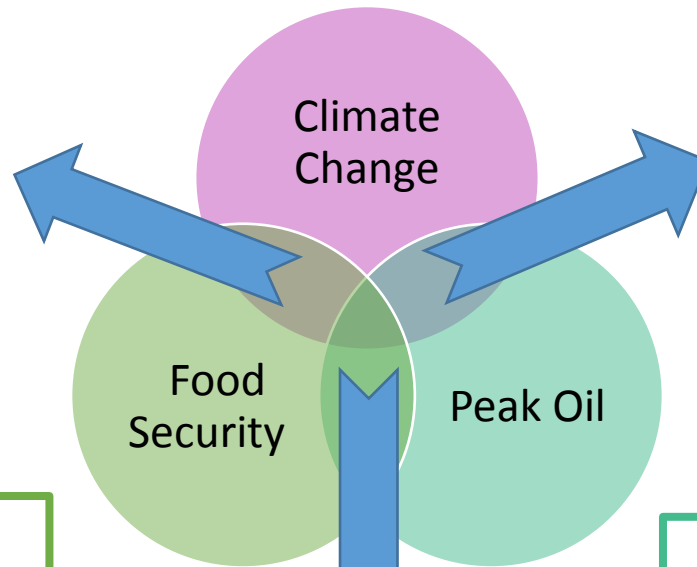
KEY CHALLENGES AFFECTING UPLANDS IN THE NORTH WEST & BEYOND

Increased temperature & Precipitation
Issue: More storminess & unpredictability



Spanish salad crop failure

Global popn to hit 9bn by 2050
Issue: not enough food in the right places
Issue: wrong types of food



Atmospheric pollution
& warming

Peak oil supposedly 2014!
Issue: over-reliance on fossil fuels

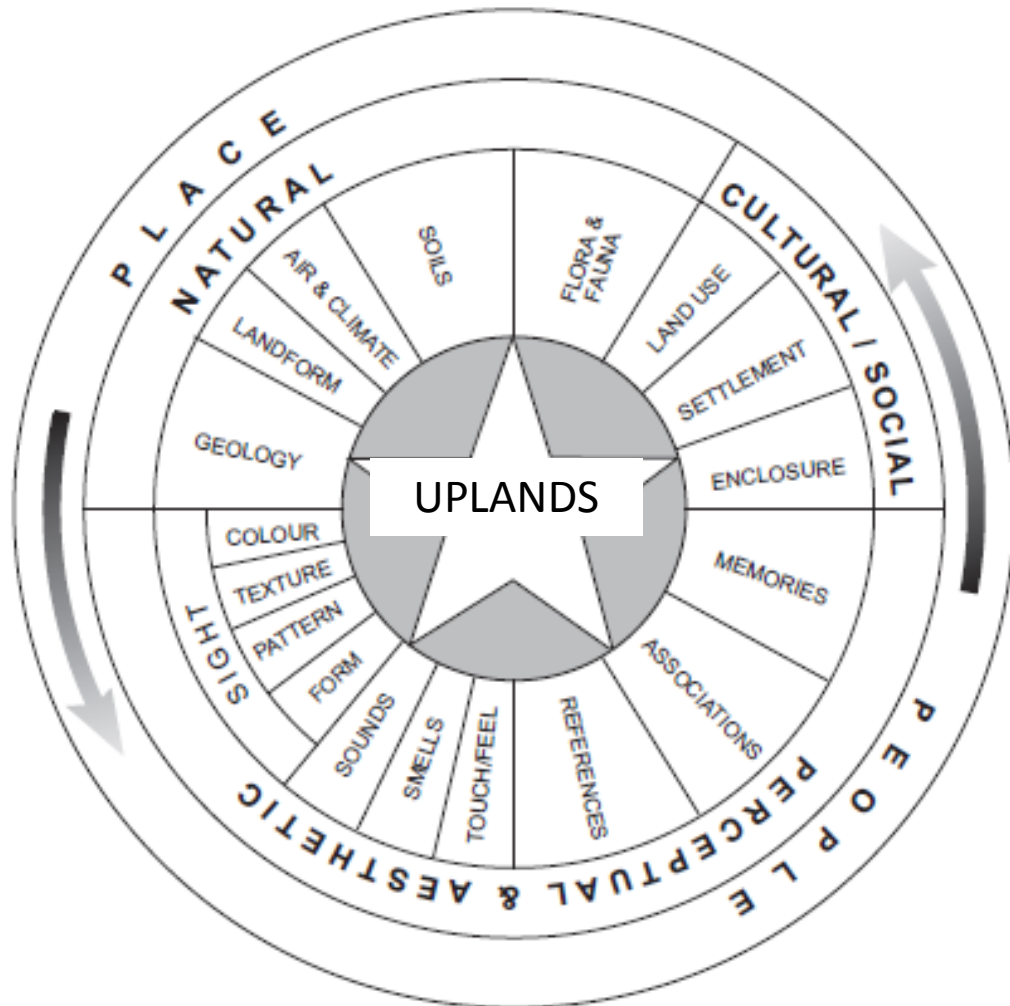


Intensive farming systems



- EFFECTS:**
- Less money to support upland resource management in any context
 - Increasing self reliance needed by individuals, businesses and communities
 - Various deals could lead to between 60 and 95% of Hill Farmers going out of business

HOW DO WE RESPOND?




GENERAL UPLAND ISSUES TO CONSIDER

1. Perpetuating Perceptions of Marginality
2. Coping with Multifunctionalism
3. Complex Land Ownership
4. Confusing Property rights
5. Dealing with Silo Management
6. Centralised Power & control
7. Inappropriate units of management


(Taken from: Swanwick, 2002)


CHALLENGE ONE – increased flooding




Storm Desmond: 100 days of flood recovery in Cumbria 


What happened


341mm 
in 24 hrs at Honister Pass, Cumbria


191% 
of average rainfall for December making it the wettest December on record*


What we have done

£10m 
the approximate cost of repairs to flood defences in Cumbria and Lancashire

1,500 
properties in Cumbria added to free flood warning service

30,000 
tonnes of gravel removed after being washed downstream during floods in Kendal, Keswick and Glenridding

3,000 
inspections of flood defences and assets carried out

100 
communities visited by Flood Support Officers since Storm Desmond

*Met Office data

SOLUTION : Effective Catchment Management



Flood management is a combination of small changes, not mass tree planting!



DRAWBACKS TO CONSIDER:

Other livelihoods affected

Getting stakeholder consensus

The changing landscape aesthetic

>>>> visitor economy

Loss of Biodiversity - 30 of 48 upland habitats are agriculturally derived in UK uplands

Public misunderstanding about the role of trees

CHALLENGE TWO – Energy Production



Electricity



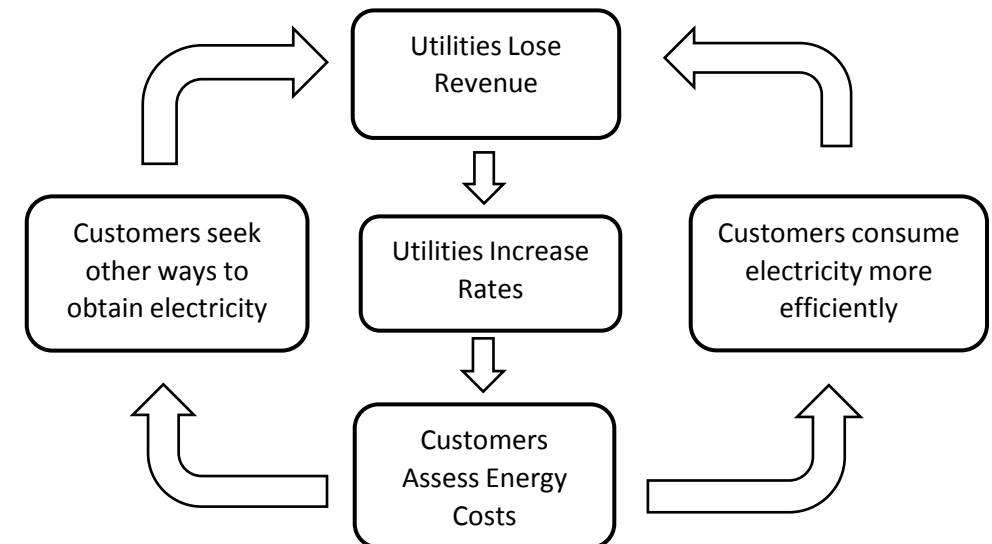
Heat



Transport

Key issues:

- UK Government recognise demand will outstrip supply in next ten years thus policy is now focused developing more renewables
- Focus **not** in uplands due to too contentious regarding landscape aesthetics
- Concern over the *Energy Death Spiral*



SOLUTIONS: Renewables production



Community solar



Short Rotation
Coppice



Langdale Spa Hotel



Community Hydro

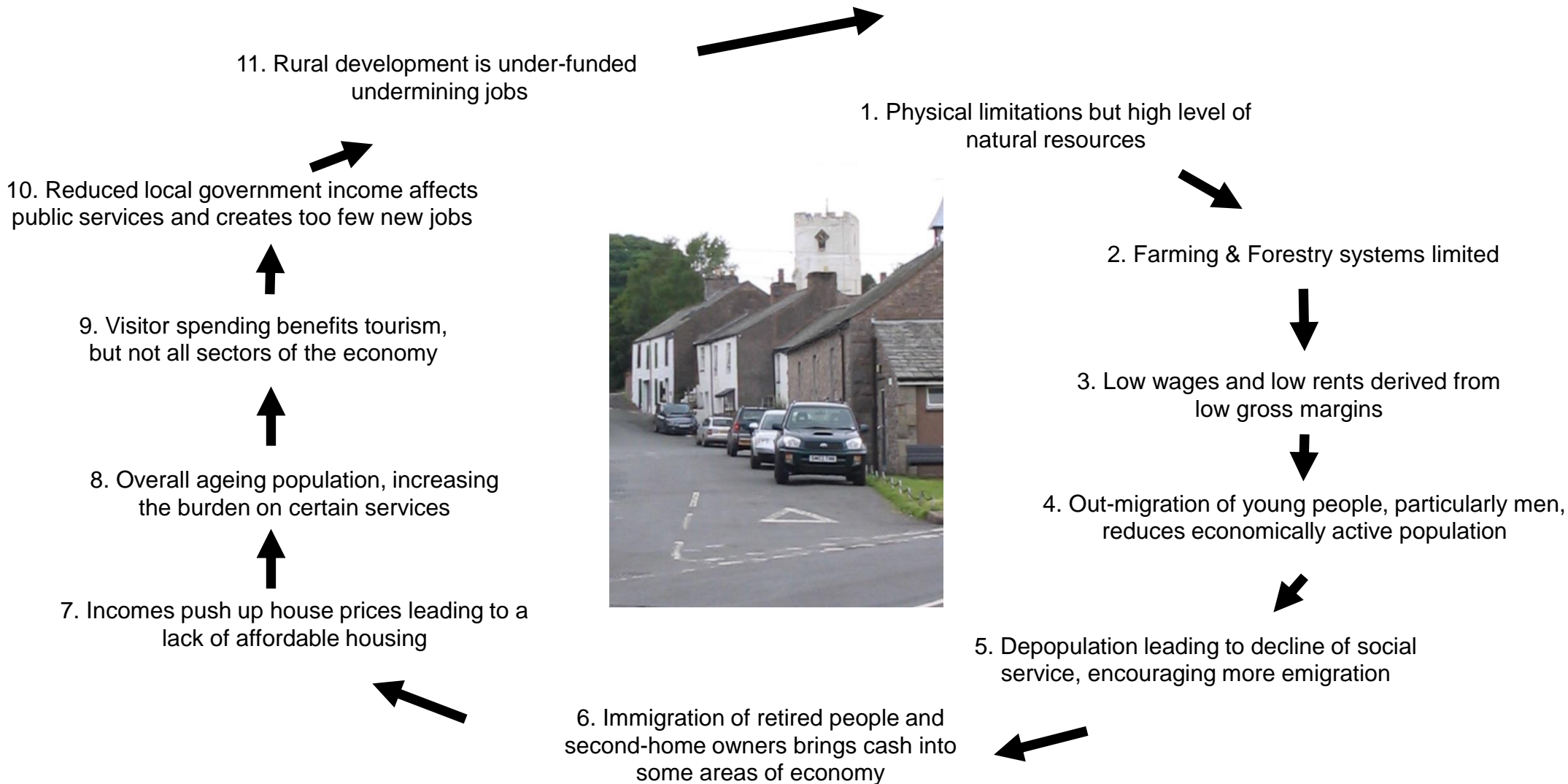


Anaerobic digestion



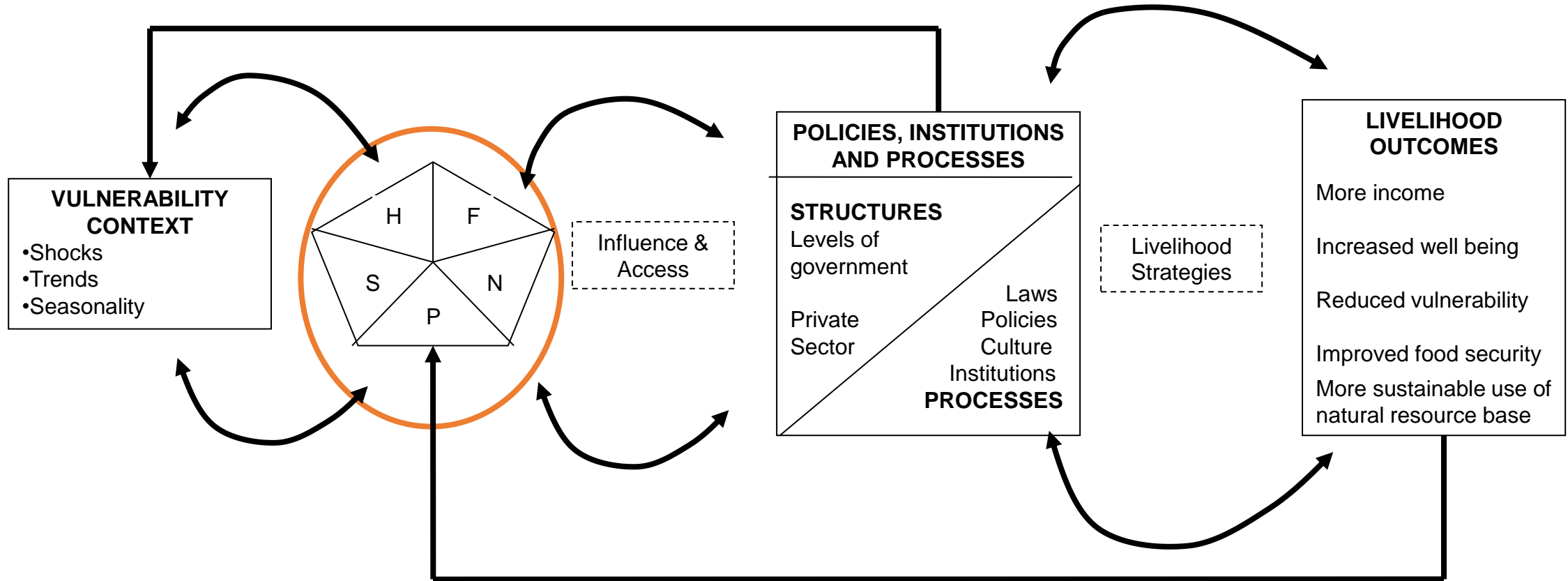
Geothermal systems

CHALLENGE THREE – rural economy & society



SOLUTION: apply Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

A planning tool used to help realise and employ all business assets, not just the traditional ones.
Operates at the business level so can be costly.



H = Human Capital

N = Natural Capital

F = Financial Capital

P = Physical Capital

S = Social Capital

KEY MESSAGES

CHALLENGES

Climate Change
Peak Oil
Food Security

Flood Management
Energy Production
Rural Economy & Society



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Catchment Management
Renewables production
Sustainable Livelihoods



**PLACE-BASED
SUSTAINABLE UPLANDS**



Thank you for listening